GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3235
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2002
BUNGLING BY EXPORT INSPECTION COUNCIL
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news items published in the Jansatta, New Delhi dated 17.2.2002 under the caption `Caroron Rupaya Ka Chuna Laga Rahi Hai E.I.C`;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted or propose to conduct any inquiry in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the wastage of Government funds as also to fix the responsibility in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) (c) & (d): Main issues raised in the news item are hiring of new accommodation at exorbitant rates, non-construction of Export Inspection Council (EIC)`s own building at plots purchased from DDA at Vikas Puri, and excessive expenditure incurred in renovation of new building at YMCA, New Delhi.The facts were enquired from EIC. It is ascertained, DDA is yet to give possession ofbuilding site. EIC is also pursuing with DDA for allotment of some alternative site preferably in Central Delhi which would be more conducive to their functional requirement. The previous premises occupied by EIC at Rajendra Place was spread over four locations and three floors comprising flats belonging to 9 different landlords. The premises did not provide suitable work environment thus affecting discipline and supervision and were poorly maintained and unhygienic necessitating the search for some other suitable location.

The rates of rental as agreed for the new hired premises are as per the prevalent market rates and have approval of competent authority. EIC had engaged the services of the School of Planning and Architecture to help it to select a designer/ contractor and overseeing the execution of the job on payment of some fee. EIC had invited tenders for selection of contractors as prescribed in the rules. The expenditure incurred on renovation and furnishing had the approval of competent authority. Moreover, EIC follows the same degree of prudence and standard as is required for expenditure in the Government. The accounts of EIC are subject to statutory audit by the office of Comptroller & Auditor General of India and officers concerned are accountable for irregularity, if any, noticed therein.